THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) So far, 87 post offices have been opened in rural and remote areas of Port Blair.

(b) Opening of new post offices in the Union Territory under the future schemes is subject to the fulfilment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

Post Offices in Rural, Hilly and Remote Areas

†1938. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for opening new post offices in rural, hilly and remote areas of the country; and

(b) the number of post offices opened or likely to be opened in the North-Fast States of the country, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthau and Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the basis of prescribed criteria during the last three years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The criteria for opening of new post offices in rural, hilly and remote areas of the country are given in statement-I. (See below).

(b) The number of post offices opened in the North-East circle, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the basis of prescribed criteria during the last three years and during the current year (till date) is given in statement-II. *(See* below) The opening of the post offices depends upon fulfilment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

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†Originar notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Norms for opening post offices

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

1.1 Population:

(a) In Normal Areas:

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33.1/3% of the cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. Criteria for upgrading'opeiiing Departmental Sub Post Offices:

(a) In Rural Areas:

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, shold be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

(b) In Urban Areas:

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Statements-II

Post Offices opened during the last three years and till date

S>. No	. Name of Circle	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002 (till date)	
		BOs	DSOs	BOs	DSOs	BOs	DSOs	BOs	DSOs
1.	Madhya Pradesh	50	5	40	4	15	3	21	3
2.	North East	54	3	19	3	3	3	2	1
3.	Orissa	10	2	14	2	10	2	14	2
4.	Rajasthan	30	1	24	1	20	2	20	3
5.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		— —	1		~~	—	J	—